

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please **AMEND** claims 5 and 15 as follows.

A copy of all pending claims and a status of the claims are provided below.

1. (original) A device for stacking product, comprising:

at least one pivoting mechanism pivotable between a loading position and an initial/final position, the at least one pivoting mechanism retains a container thereon;

at least one corresponding diverting mechanism for injecting product into the container, the at least one corresponding diverting mechanism including:

a feeding area;

a diverting arm swingable between an open position and a closed position, in the open position, the diverting arm allowing product to enter the feeding area; and

an ejection station proximate to the feeding area, the ejection station injecting the product into the container after the product enters the feeding area via movement of the diverting arm.

2. (original) The device of claim 1, further comprising a transport system for transporting the product to the at least one corresponding diverting mechanism.

3. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein the product is mail objects.
4. (original) The device of claim 1, further comprising a continuous belt driven system proximate to the at least one corresponding diverting mechanism for transporting the product between a first and a second of the at least one corresponding diverting mechanisms.
5. (currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the at least one pivoting mechanism and the at least one corresponding diverting mechanism are at least two pivoting mechanisms and at least two corresponding diverting mechanisms and the a transporting system additionally extends between the at least two corresponding diverting mechanisms.
6. (original) The device of claim 1, further comprising a lifting device for lifting the at least one corresponding pivoting mechanism between the loading position and the initial/final position.
7. (original) The device of claim 6, wherein the at least one corresponding pivoting mechanism includes a transporting device to transport the container between an induction transport and an exit transport.

8. (original) The device of claim 1, further comprising a mechanism for indexing the container a predetermined distance on the at least one corresponding pivoting mechanism during injection of the product into the container.

9. (original) The device of claim 1, further comprising a sensor which determines a position of the container on at least one of the at least one corresponding pivoting mechanism and an induction transport.

10. (original) The device of claim 9, wherein the sensor is a photodiode.

11. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein the at least one corresponding pivoting mechanism stacks the product in a vertical orientation within the container.

12. (original) The device of claim 1, further comprising a control for controlling the movement of the diverting arm and injection of the product into the container from the ejection station.

13. (original) The device of claim 1, further comprising an induction transport and an exiting transport positioned at respective ends of the at least one corresponding pivoting mechanism, the induction transport includes a right

Serial No.: 10/715,515

--5--

angle movement device for moving the container at a substantially right angle from the induction transport onto the at least one corresponding pivoting mechanism.

14. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein the ejection station includes opposing belts configured in a pinch belt configuration.

15. (currently amended) A device for stacking product, comprising:

at least one pivoting mechanism pivotable between a first and second angled position;

at least one diverting mechanism corresponding to the at least one pivoting mechanism, the at least one diverting mechanism injecting product into a container and including:

a feeding area; and

a swingable diverting arm configured to feed the product to an
ejection station comprising a pinch belt configuration that allows injection of the product into the container.

16. (original) The device of claim 15, further comprising:

a transport system for transporting the product to the at least one corresponding diverting mechanism;

a continuous belt driven system proximate to the at least one corresponding diverting mechanism for transporting the product between a first and a second of the at least one corresponding diverting mechanisms; and

a gripping mechanism on the at least one pivoting mechanism for retaining the container thereon when in the second angled position,

wherein the at least one pivoting mechanism is at least two pivoting mechanisms aligning with the first and the second of the at least one corresponding diverting mechanisms.

17. (original) The device of claim 15, wherein the product is mail objects.

18. (original) The device of claim 15, further comprising a lifting device for lifting the at least one corresponding pivoting mechanism between the first and second angled position.

19. (original) ~~The device of claim 15, further comprising~~

A device for stacking product, comprising:

at least one pivoting mechanism pivotable between a first and second angled position;

at least one diverting mechanism corresponding to the at least one pivoting mechanism, the at least one diverting mechanism injecting product into

a container and including:

a feeding area; and

an ejection station comprising a pinch belt configuration that

allows injection of the product into the container; and

a mechanism for indexing the container a predetermined distance on the at least one corresponding pivoting mechanism during injection of the product into the container.

20. (original) The device of claim 15, further comprising a sensor which determines a position of the container on at least one of the at least one corresponding pivoting mechanism and an entry transport.

21.(original) The device of claim 15, wherein the diverting arm is swingable between an open position and a closed position, in the open position, the diverting arm allows product to enter the feeding area.

22. (original) The device of claim 21, further comprising a control for controlling movement of the diverting arm and injection of the product into the container from the ejection station.

23. (original) The device of claim 15, wherein the angled position of the at least one pivoting mechanism is approximately 35 degrees from a horizontal plane.

24. (original) The device of claim 15, wherein the ejection station is positioned in a downward angle towards the at least one pivoting mechanism.

25. (original) The device of claim 15, further comprising a cover positionable over the container.

26. (previously presented) A mechanism for vertical stacking product, comprising:

- a container positioner constructed to rotate a container between a horizontal configuration and an inclined configuration; and

- a control operable for activating the container positioner to:

- rotate the container from the horizontal configuration to the inclined configuration to permit product to drop in a substantially horizontal orientation into the container receptacle,

- increment the container a distance during stacking of the product,
- and

- rotate the container to position each product from the horizontal orientation to the substantially vertical orientation.

27. (original) The mechanism of claim 26, further comprising a conveyor onto which each dropped product is captured in the substantially horizontal orientation, the conveyor being constructed and arranged to drop the product into the container such that the product fall in the substantially horizontal orientation.

28. (previously presented) The mechanism of claim 27, further comprising a divider attached to the conveyor to retain the product in a stack, the divider additional capable of pushing the product.

29. (previously presented) The mechanism of claim 27, further comprising a cover removably positioned over a top of the container, the cover being attached to the container positioner and rotates with a receptacle positioner between the horizontal configuration and the inclined configuration.

30. (original) The mechanism of claim 26, further comprising a container lifting and lowering device, the container lifting and lowering device includes a support for supporting at least a portion of a bottom of the container, the container lifting and lowering device incrementally positioning the container either upwards or downwards.

31. (original) The mechanism of claim 26, further comprising at least one guide to guide the product into the container, in an order.

32. (original) A method for stacking product in a vertical orientation into container, the method comprising the steps of:

transporting a container to an injection area;

angling the container to a predetermined angle greater than 0 degrees from a horizontal plane;

injecting product into the container in a vertically stacked orientation;

indexing the container a predetermined distance;

continuing injecting product into the container in a vertically stacked orientation;

lowering the container into the horizontal plane; and

transporting the container away in the substantially horizontal plane away from the injection area.

33. (original) The method of claim 32, further comprising the step determining a position of the container.

34. (original) The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of controlling

a flow of the product to an ejection area which injects the product into the container.

35. (original) The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of determining which of several injection areas to transport the product thereto for injection into the container.

36. (previously presented) A method for dropping product in a substantially horizontal orientation in a travel path and for depositing the product into a container in a substantially vertical orientation, the method comprising:

rotating the container from a horizontal configuration to an inclined configuration;

dropping product in a substantially horizontal orientation into the container;

covering the container to ensure product is not ejected therefrom during the dropping step; and

rotating the container from the inclined configuration to the horizontal configuration to position each product in the container from the horizontal orientation to the substantially vertical orientation.

Serial No.: 10/715,515

--12--

37. (original) The method of claim 36, further comprising one of incrementally or continuously moving the product into the container, wherein the product is one of provided in a stack or singularly before falling into the container.

38. (original) The method of claim 36, further comprising the step of determining an amount of product in the container.

39. (previously presented) The device of claim 15, wherein the feeding area is formed substantially by an upper and lower mechanism.